

Issue NE-CW1702, released April 29, 2002, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov), Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**GENERAL:** Corn planting was nearing one-third complete before widespread rainfall limited further progress, according to the USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Soils cooled during the week, as average daytime temperatures retreated to below normal readings and minimums for the week dipped below freezing Statewide. Producer activities focused on spring fieldwork, fertilizer applications, and caring for livestock.

This release is based on reports and data from county extension educators, FSA county directors, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center.

**WEATHER:** Temperatures moderated during the week with readings five to six degrees below normals in most areas. Needed precipitation fell across much of the State over the weekend. An inch or more was common across the eastern third of the State as well as portions of central and southwestern Nebraska.

**CROPS: Wheat** condition remained steady from last week as below normal temperatures limited crop stress. Wheat rated 9 percent very poor, 21 poor, 41 fair, 28 good and 1 excellent, below last year and average. Fourteen percent of the crop was jointed, near 15 last year but behind 25 average. Much of the Southwest received .50 to 1.00 inch of precipitation during the week, bringing short term relief to parched crops. However, only limited rainfall fell in dry Panhandle counties.

**Corn** planting jumped to 32 percent completed. This is ahead of 19 percent planted last year and 18 percent average. Three percent of the crop was emerged, compared to 2 last year and 1 average. Producers in South Central and Southeastern districts passed the halfway mark.

The first fields of **soybeans** were being planted. Statewide, three percent of the crop was in the ground, ahead of 0 last year and 1 average. Soil temperatures averaged in the mid to low 50's across the State, too cool for soybean development.

**Oat** planting continued ahead of average with 92 percent of the crop seeded, compared to 68 last year and 83 for the five-year average. Sixty-two percent had emerged to date, ahead of 31 percent last year and 48 average.

**Sugar beet** planting at 80 percent complete is well ahead of last year. Fifty percent had been planted at this time a year ago. Emergence has been poor in some areas.

**Alfalfa** condition rated 2 percent very poor, 8 poor, 39 fair, 47 good, and 4 excellent.

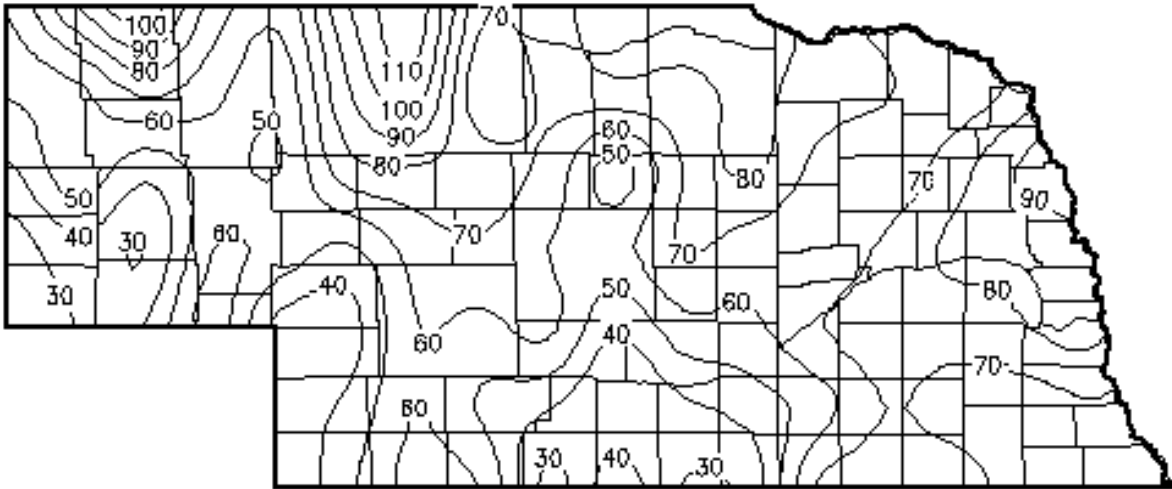
**LIVESTOCK: Pasture and range** conditions continued below average and rated 7 percent very poor, 18 poor, 41 fair, and 33 good, and 1 excellent. Growth has been slow and some producers have kept cattle in drylots for another week due to limited grazing potential.

**Cattle and calves** condition rated mostly good to excellent with spring calving nearing completion at 94 percent.

Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of April 28, 2002

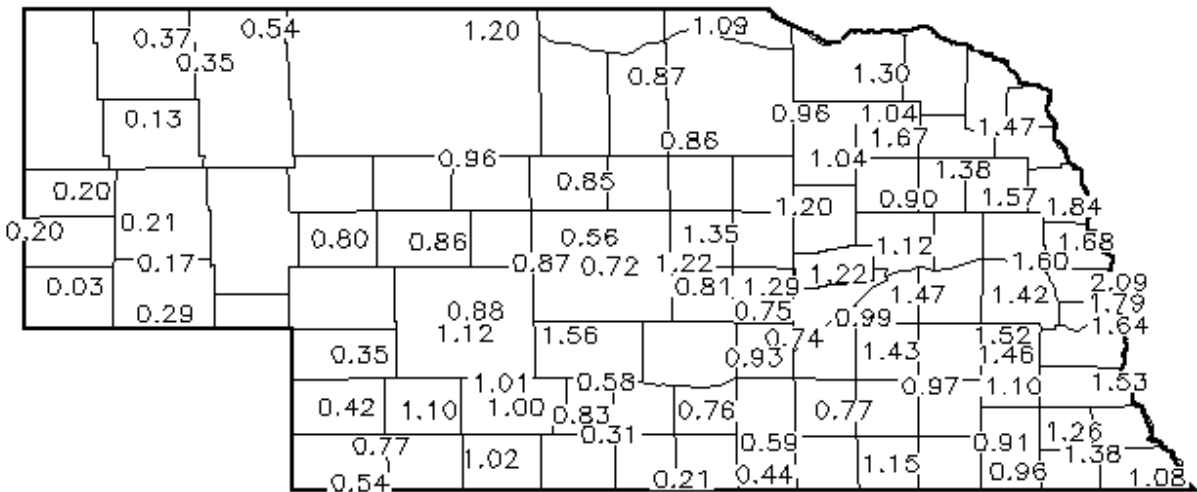
Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	11	6	13	42	31	14	56	63	32	8	19	18
% Corn Emerged	0	0	1	2	2	0	2	9	3	0	0	1
% Soybeans Planted	0	0	3	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	0	1
% Wheat Jointed	3	5	8	10	21	13	30	29	14	9	15	25
% Oats Planted	78	82	96	99	93	99	99	100	92	82	68	83
% Oats Emerged	47	43	68	18	50	70	89	97	62	44	31	48
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	6.6	5.8	4.6	6.0	4.5	6.5	5.5	4.8	5.4	6.1	4.4	4.3
Topsoil Moisture - % Very short	39	4	6	38	11	60	15	16	23	27	2	5
- % Short	34	25	24	32	26	37	36	26	29	32	8	14
- % Adequate	27	71	59	30	62	3	49	58	47	41	85	74
- % Surplus	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	7
Subsoil Moisture - % Very Short	29	4	3	29	24	61	26	17	21	20	4	10
- % Short	52	38	34	56	45	32	63	43	44	45	31	18
- % Adequate	19	58	63	15	31	7	11	40	35	35	64	69
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3

Percent of Normal Precipitation Last 60 Days



Source: High Plains Regional Climate Centers Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 28, 2002



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 28, 2002

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.22	1.09	1.29	.94	1.42	.80	.66	1.12
Total since April 1	.55	1.88	2.29	1.70	2.46	1.01	.92	2.27
Normal since April 1	1.63	1.96	2.32	2.22	2.49	1.73	1.90	2.55
Total as % of normal	33%	96%	98%	76%	98%	58%	49%	89%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Saturday April 27, 2002

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Mean	Departure
		Max	Min		
NW	Chadron	81	17	44	-5
	Scottsbluff	85	21	47	-2
	Sidney	80	16	43	-3
N	Valentine	84	22	44	-6
NE	Norfolk	85	26	48	-5
	Sioux City	81	29	48	-5
C	Grand Island	83	27	49	-5
	Ord	84	24	45	
E	Lincoln	82	27	49	-6
	Omaha	81	30	50	-5
SW	Imperial	82	23	47	-4
	North Platte	82	18	43	-8

Source: National Weather Service, Valley, NE.